

### VIEW FROM THE TOP



#### **DEAR FRIEND:**

Leadership is a common theme at UMUC. For 60 years, this university has led the way in making higher education accessible to adults, offering flexible course schedules and learning formats that allow individuals in the

workforce or the military to benefit from a university education.

So it's no surprise that this issue of *Achiever* focuses on leaders—each one unique, each one successful in his or her own way. You'll meet Marcia Harris, president and CEO of the Restaurant Association of Maryland, whose decision to just be herself was the first step toward the pinnacle of a remarkable career.

You'll also meet Edward Perkins, the first black diplomat to apartheidera South Africa, who helped turn the embassy in Pretoria into an agent of peaceful change in a troubled country. You'll meet John Tabori, mayor of University Park, Maryland, who—despite having already retired from a career as a political economist—continues to learn and explore. And you'll meet Peter Ollodart, director of planning for consumer security technologies at Microsoft, who works tirelessly to make the online environment safe for you—and your children.

You'll learn more about UMUC's commitment to strong leadership, too. A new dean, Michael Frank, with a wealth of experience in higher education and business, now leads our Graduate School of Management and Technology. Three new undergraduate degree and certificate programs position the university to better serve the needs of the workforce in Maryland, across the country, and around the world. And an innovative new program—launched by former UMUC Alumnus of the Year Richard F. Blewitt and cosponsored by UMUC—promises to bring hope and smiles to the family members of military personnel injured or killed in service to their country.

It's all in this issue of *Achiever*, and I hope that, as you read it, you'll reflect on the impact that strong, innovative leaders have on your life.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Aldridge, PhD

**PRESIDENT** 

University of Maryland University College

Susan C. Aldridge

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Susan C. Aldridge, PhD

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#### COVER STORY

#### **6** Rational Exuberance

BY CHIP CASSANO

From challenge to challenge and success to success, Marcia Harris has followed her heart—and her head—to the pinnacle of a remarkable career. This is her story.

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### NEWS AND UPDATES



#### ANDREA MITCHELL, NBC NEWS CHIEF FOREIGN AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT, VISITS UMUC

BY CHIP CASSANO

Andrea Mitchell, chief foreign affairs correspondent for NBC News since 1994, visited UMUC March 8, 2007, where she presented a keynote address as part of the university's Academic Speaker Series. Mitchell, an acclaimed political reporter and analyst, discussed her recent memoir, Talking Back . . . to Presidents, Dictators, and Assorted Scoundrels.

Mitchell addressed a capacity crowd in UMUC's Inn and Conference Center Auditorium, drawing from her long career as a news correspondent to illustrate her talk. She has reported on the conflict with Irag, U.S.-China relations, the Hong Kong handover, the war in Bosnia, the Middle East peace process, the civil war in Afghanistan, nuclear proliferation in India and Pakistan, terrorism, and more. During the 2000 presidential elections, Mitchell hosted The Mitchell Report on MSNBC, NBC News's election-year broadcast of record.

Andrea Mitchell on stage (above) and greeting UMUC President Susan C. Aldridge (left, inset).

Before she became chief foreign affairs correspondent, Mitchell served as NBC's chief White House correspondent, a position she accepted after covering the Clinton campaign from the New Hampshire primary through the 1992 election. She also served as a regular political analyst on *Today*.

Mitchell joined NBC News in 1978 as a general correspondent based in Washington, D.C. Before joining NBC, she was a correspondent for WDVM-TV (then WTOP), the CBS affiliate in Washington, D.C. From 1967 to 1976, she was a broadcast journalist for KYW Radio and KYW-TV in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Over the years, Mitchell has appeared on *Meet the Press* as a panelist and substitute host. An acclaimed political reporter, she has covered every presidential election since 1976. In the

summer of 1999, Mitchell was nominated for two Emmy awards for outstanding instant coverage of a news story for her reporting on the crisis in Iraq and on the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania.

A native New Yorker,
Mitchell received her BA in
English literature from the
University of Pennsylvania,
where she currently serves as
a trustee, a member of the
executive committee, and chair
of the Annenberg School advisory board. Mitchell is married
to former Federal Reserve
board chairman Alan
Greenspan and lives in
Washington, D.C.

#### MICHAEL S. FRANK NAMED DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

BY CHIP CASSANO

Michael S. Frank, formerly

chair of UMUC's information technology systems and general management programs, took over as vice provost and dean of the Graduate School of Management and Technology on January 29, 2007. Frank had been serving as interim dean of the

Graduate School prior to that.
Frank became the fifth dean in the Graduate School's 27year history; his selection marked the end of a national search that reviewed applications from 86 candidates



Michael S. Frank, new vice provost and dean of UMUC's Graduate School.

nationwide. Frank brings more than 25 years of administrative experience to the dean's position, drawn from a career in banking, human resource management, state and local government, and higher education. He began teaching for UMUC in 1986 as an adjunct faculty member and joined the Graduate School in 1995 as a full-time faculty member and program director.

In his years with UMUC, Frank has already made major contributions to the Graduate School's growth in enrollment and programs, fostering innovative degrees in health care and business administration. He was one of the original creators of the popular MBA program, as well as of the university's unique Doctor of Management program. He has been a leader in forging graduate articulation agreements with U.S. military service schools and has served the university as chair or member of several key committees.

The search committee found Frank to be passionate

about UMUC and student success and recommended him based on his solid understanding of the university and of the Graduate School in particular, as well as his breadth of experience in both business and higher education that makes him sensi-

tive to working with people of diverse ideas and backgrounds.

Frank holds an MA and PhD in government and politics from the University of Maryland, College Park, where he majored in public

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#### Susan C. Aldridge Inaugurated as UMUC's Fifth President

BY CHIP CASSANO

On the morning of February 9, 2007, University System of Maryland Chancellor William E. Kirwan for-

mally installed Susan C. Alridge as the fifth president of University of Maryland University College in an inaugural ceremony at the university's Adelphi, Maryland, headquarters. The Honorable Martin O'Malley, governor of Maryland, joined a distinguished audience of delegates and guests from across the state and nation—representing higher education, government, and business—in a show of support for the president.

"Dr. Alridge, thank you for choosing to lead and develop one of the truly great strengths that we have in our state—the talents of our people . . . and the brainpower of the students, staff, and faculty . . . here at UMUC," said O'Malley. "In so doing, you have opened another chapter in a long story of opportunity, of imagination, of advancement, and achievement, and you continue a proud tradition founded at this university's very beginning.

"When a college degree was seemingly beyond the reach of working families, UMUC

made a commitment as an open university to provide an affordable education to anyone who was willing to risk action on the faith that they could work for it and achieve it."

In the evening, guests continued the celebration at a black-tie inaugural gala featuring fine dining, dancing, and live music by Amaretto, Maria Isolina and Sol y Rumba Band, Mystic Warriors, and the Dave Smith Trio. Proceeds from the gala went to support the UMUC Anniversary Scholarship Fund, established in honor of the university's 60th anniversary this year and the 50th anniversary of UMUC Asia in 2006. Scholarships from the fund will be awarded based on student performance and need, with preference given to students studying online.

An art exhibit featuring the work of Carl Berman—father of UMUC faculty member Carl Berman Jr.—also opened as part of the inaugural celebration and expanded on the inaugural theme:
Bold. Global. Leadership.

For more about the inauguration, visit www.umuc.edu/inauguration.
To view a webcast of the ceremony, point your browser to www.umuc.edu/inauguration/webcast.

















#### **INAUGURAL AND GALA**

COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Visiting dignitaries pack the auditorium at UMUC's Inn and Conference Center; University System of Maryland Chancellor William E. Kirwan greets **UMUC Arts Program patron Doris Patz; George** Shoenberger, UMUC's chief finacial officer and vice president for administration, visits with Andrea Hart, senior executive assistant to the president; Amaretto performs at the inaugural gala; quests at the black-tie inaugural gala enjoy dining, dancing, and networking; the Color Guard makes an honorary appearance at the inaugural ceremony; UMUC President Susan Aldridge and Chancellor William Kirwan greet guests following the inauguration; **President Susan Aldridge greets Maryland** Governor Martin O'Malley as Chancellor William Kirwan looks on.

#### NEWS AND Updates

administration and political science and minored in organizational theory and research methods as an undergraduate. He has won numerous awards and honors during his professional career, including UMUC's Stanley J. Drazek Teaching Excellence Award.

#### UMUC ESTABLISHES FIRST SHRM CHAPTER WITH ONLINE COMPONENT

BY CHIP CASSANO

UMUC's application to establish a student chapter of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) was approved March 8, 2007. The chapter is the newest of 430 student chapters—with a total of 11,000 members-nationwide and is the first chapter to feature an online component. Joyce Henderson, a collegiate faculty member in the School of Undergraduate Studies, will serve as advisor, and the Montgomery Professional SHRM chapter has agreed to sponsor UMUC's student chapter.

Membership in SHRM offers a wide range of benefits to anyone who works or plans to work in the field of human resources (HR). The association is the largest affiliated with the HR field, representing more than 210,000 professional members, and-through the student chapters-allows students to join at a fraction of the cost of establishing a professional membership. Members receive immediate updates on changes to laws that impact the field, access to research and white papers on key issues that are relevant to HR, help with job searches, personal networking opportunities, and the chance to meet HR executives and hear them speak at chapter meetings.

"Our SHRM student chapter also provides a great opportunity for our students to take leadership positions and learn from that experience," added Henderson, UMUC's chapter faculty advisor. "Students have the opportunity to practice the skills we teach in our human resource program leading, managing, communicating effectively, and organizing. Serving as an officer or in a committee position in the chapter offers the chance to practice these important skills while having fun and meeting new friends!"

For more information about the new SHRM student chapter, contact Joyce Henderson by e-mail at *jhen816@aol.com*.

#### UMUC INTRODUCES NEW UNDERGRADUATE MAJORS AND CERTIFICATES

BY CHIP CASSANO

University of Maryland University College recently announced three new undergraduate degree programs and certificates, available fall 2007, that respond directly to critical needs in today's workforce.

The first—a major and minor in EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT— focuses on disaster prevention, planning, preparedness, response, mitigation, and recovery. It is designed to provide students with a global outlook and interpersonal skills while preparing them for positions in emergency management in government or industry or for graduate study in emergency management, homeland security management, or management and leadership.



The second program—a major and minor in HOMELAND SECURITY—focuses on domestic and international security issues, including terrorism, infrastructure protection, strategic planning for security, international relations, and more. It is designed to help students develop a global outlook, interpersonal skills, and awareness of current issues in the field. It prepares graduates to be leaders in government and industry security.

The third program—a major in INFORMATION ASSURANCE—is designed to prepare graduates for leadership positions in information assurance, both in government and industry. It is designed to teach a global outlook, interpersonal skills, leadership

and management skills, and awareness of current issues in the field.

Three new undergraduate certificates also join UMUC's growing list of career-specific certificate programs, designed to accommodate professionals who are positioning themselves for advancement, entering new career

fields, or updating skill sets.

The first certificate—in CLINICAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE—is designed for individuals who work in mental health care or wish to enter the field and focuses on mental health disor-

ders, diagnostic procedures, and treatment protocols. It prepares students to work in a clinical setting under the supervision of a doctor or psychologist and is structured so that it can be complet-

ed together with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

The second certificate—in **DIVERSITY AWARENESS**—provides an interdisciplinary perspective on diversity in contemporary society, geared toward a practical application in the workplace. Based in the social sciences and grounded in sociological concepts, the program focuses on applying social science concepts to foster an awareness and sensitivity to the diverse groups one is likely to encounter in today's workplace. It is structured so that it can be completed together with a bachelor's degree in social science.

The third certificate—in HUMAN DEVELOPMENT—is designed for individuals who work in health care settings and

need a thorough background in human development, from birth through old age. It teaches students to understand and recognize developmental milestones across the lifespan and examines related agespecific topics. This program is also structured so that it can be completed together with a bach-

elor's degree in psychology.

For more about UMUC's new degree and certificate offerings, visit ww.umuc.edu/ugp and watch for the release of the fall 2007 Schedule of Classes.

- Homeland Security
- Emergency Management
- Information
   Assurance

#### **CERTIFICATES**

- Clinical Mental
  Health Care
- HumanDevelopment

# UMUC PARTNERS WITH BLEWITT FOUNDATION TO SERVE AMERICA'S MILITARY FAMILIES

BY CHIP CASSANO

University of Maryland University College has partnered with The Blewitt Foundation—and its founder and CEO, former UMUC Alumnus of the Year Richard F. Blewitt—in a unique

program, titled Destination R&R, that seeks to bring hope to the families of U.S. military personnel who lost their lives or were injured in service to their country. More than 100 military family members are scheduled to attend the first all-expensespaid retreat, August 5–9, 2007, at the Turf Valley Resort in Ellicott City, Maryland.

"Many of these brave men and women have experienced catastrophic loss and sustained severe injuries on active duty," said Blewitt. "Destination R&R is designed to give these brave warriors and their families an exciting, fun-filled family escape from the grim and difficult realities of life. We intend to provide participating adults and children the experience of a lifetime and convey-on behalf of our country—our profound gratitude for the sacrifices they have all made to ensure and protect the many benefits of freedom that we all enjoy."

The five-day retreat will emphasize fun, featuring a concert by the Fabulous Hubcaps, an outing to Baltimore's Camden Yards to see the Baltimore Orioles play, a visit to the Baltimore Aquarium, and more. But Destination R&R offers more than simple recreation. Another co-sponsor, the Josephson Institute of Ethics, will present its acclaimed

Character Counts! program, and UMUC will provide computer training, personal financial management instruction, and volunteer support to families facing loss and change.

"UMUC is pleased to support The Blewitt

Foundation's efforts to provide special comfort, enjoyment, and enrichment opportunities for U.S. military families, especially those who have suffered the loss or serious injury of a family member," said UMUC President Susan C. Aldridge. "Since its inception in 1947, UMUC has enjoyed a very special relationship with the U.S. Armed Forces. We were the first, and continue to be the principal, provider of voluntary higher education services to U.S. military personnel and their families stationed overseas. . . . We welcome the opportunity to work with The Blewitt Foundation to provide a different type of service to our military families."

Destination R&R is The Blewitt Foundation's charter program, and Blewitt is optimistic about its future. It has already drawn praise from the U.S. Department of Defense and been called "one of a kind" by the National Military Family Association, which manages the selection process for Destination R&R and also co-sponsors the program.

For more information about Destination R&R and how you can help, visit www.theblewittfoundation.org.

# J O C

# Creative. Caring. Committed.

Join the faculty of UMUC—where professionals help students succeed.

Become part of the faculty at University of Maryland University College (UMUC), where you'll help prepare mature, motivated students to become tomorrow's leaders. Our diverse student body, collegial atmosphere, and state-of-the-art instructional technologies make for one of higher education's most dynamic learning environments.

You'll receive superior training in our acclaimed distance education program, which recently won the Excellence in Faculty Development for Online Teaching Award from the Sloan Consortium.

Learn more about all of UMUC's unique programs by visiting us online.

Full- and part-time positions are available.



Find out if you qualify and how to apply today.

Visit us at umuc.edu/facultyrecruit

# RATIONAL A MARCHANIA MARCH

From challenge to challenge and success to success, Marcia Harris has followed her heart—and her head to the pinnacle of a remarkable career.

BY CHIP CASSANO







the hill. You might want to think about throttling back about 50 percent, because—well, you can be downright *frightening* when you turn it all on."

Harris paid attention. She was ready for a new job. Eighteen months earlier she had made a fundamental mistake when she took a position with a handsome salary and a company car as vice president of a contract security guard firm. She thought that, with those kinds of perks, she could do anything. She couldn't.

"I was responsible for 2,000 high school dropouts with semiautomatic weapons. It just wasn't . . . my cup of tea," she said dryly. So she prepared carefully for the interview with RAM, determined to put her best foot forward.

"I practiced for about a week before the interview, throttling back and being meek, and I thought I had it down pretty well.



Even though I had kids and worked a busy full-time job and was very active in my community, UMUC's flexible coursework fit me to a tee.

But when I wrapped my hand around that doorknob on my way into the interview, a lightbulb went off, and I said, "'Oh, my God, if they don't like the real you, you're going to have to pretend to be somebody else for the rest of your life. That isn't going to work!' So I went in their with guns a-blazin'."

If she frightened the board members, they got over it, and despite the fact that they had already found another candidate they thought was perfect—and had almost called to cancel the appointment with Harris—by the end of the interview, the job was hers.

That was the good news. The bad news was that, even though she had no background in the food service industry, she was now the only full-time employee of a restaurant trade association that boasted a total membership list of 198 (cataloged on index cards and stored in a shoebox), a blue Princess telephone with a single line, a manual adding machine, and an IBM Selectric typewriter. And she'd taken a 50 percent cut in pay.

But Harris was betting on herself. And she, more than anyone, knew that she wasn't one to shrink from a challenge. She had proved that years before when she decided to tackle higher education.

Harris had married young and spent her early years raising her four children and helping support the family while her husband earned his PhD. But as she sent the last of her children off to college, she realized that she would soon be the only member of the household without a college degree. And that didn't sit well with Harris.

"Be who you are, and if they don't like you, keep looking until you find somebody who does.

"I decided that I wasn't only going to get a college degree, but I was going to try to beat my four children out of school," said Harris. "And even though I had kids and worked a busy full-time job and was very active in my community, UMUC's flexible coursework fit me to a tee." Just 12 hours before her oldest son graduated from University of Maryland, College Park, Harris accepted her diploma from UMUC—with a 4.0 grade-point average.

"And I have to say, I threw one *hell* of a graduation party," Harris said.

That was the kind of determination that Harris turned on her new position at RAM. While she was new to food service, she was no stranger to associations, having worked for seven years as village manager for the Columbia Association, which serves the city of Columbia, Maryland. And she had made an agreement with the board of RAM that, as she brought new members and money to the association, her compensation would rise accordingly.

So Harris got to work. She bought the association's first computer and retired the shoebox full of index cards. She pushed to diversify what she termed the "white male preserve" of the association's board and introduced strategic planning sessions. She leveraged the group's buying power to retain an electricity aggregator, allowing members to purchase electricity through RAM at a steep discount. She worked to establish the first state-approved self-insured workers compensation fund (one owner of a large restaurant chain reported that this benefit alone saved him \$18,000 in premiums the first year). She led the effort to establish a separately incorporated 501(c)3 corporation with the sole purpose of educating current and future industry workers and leaders. And she recently headed up a capital campaign ("That was something I'd never done," said Harris, "but thank God for the Internet. I just went online and looked up capital campaign!") that raised \$1.5 million from association members to pay for the organization's new corporate headquarters in Columbia, Maryland.

"I guess I like to take to the high wire without a net and see how I can do on things for which I'm *totally* unprepared," said Harris, laughing.



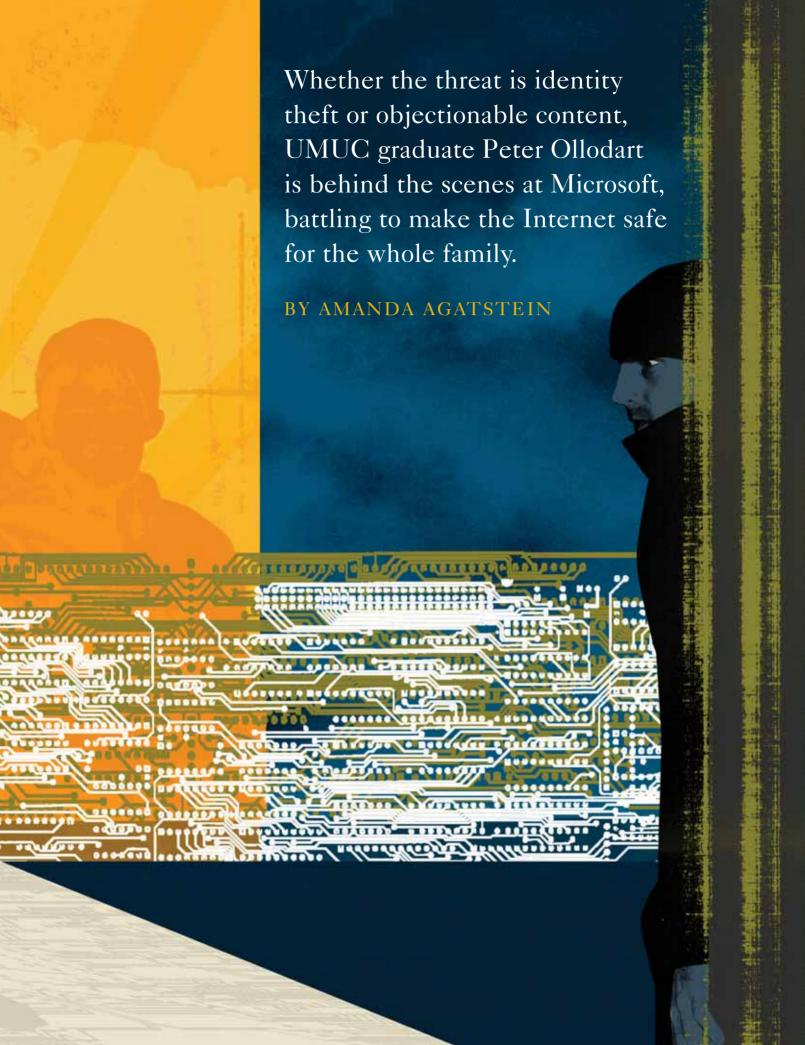
OPPOSITE PAGE: Marcia Harris, CEO and President of RAM, with Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. ABOVE: Marcia Harris in costume at the Las Vegas themed annual RAM gala event in 2005. Now, 20 years after Harris accepted the leadership role at RAM, it's pretty clear that she does just fine. RAM is now the largest trade association and the seventh-largest nonprofit association in Maryland, and Harris has been named the 2007 Food Service

Leader of the Year by Food Service Monthly, just the latest in a series of awards and honors she has received.

"It just goes to show, sometimes it's just best to go with your gut," said Harris. "Be who you are, and if they don't like you, keep looking until you find somebody who does." \*







or many, surfing the Web is something as common—and casual—as jumping in a car to run an errand or commute to work. But there are hazards in cyberspace, just as there are in rush hour traffic, and safety demands vigilance.

That's where Peter Ollodart comes in. Ollodart, a graduate of UMUC Europe with a BS in computer systems, is Microsoft's director of planning for consumer security technologies. In that role, he leads a team in developing products designed to make the online environment safer for everyone, as well as making it easier for parents to manage and guide their children's Internet use.

"About half of U.S. children say their parents have no clue what they do online," said Ollodart. "Part of our job is to narrow that gap."

Ollodart and his team work closely with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) to educate parents about what their kids can encounter on the Internet, and they strive to put Microsoft's downloadable parental controls within easy reach. Parental controls are built into Windows Vista, and Windows XP users can download a free Web-based version called Windows Live Family Safety from AAP's Web site, <a href="http://safetynet.aap.org">http://safetynet.aap.org</a>.

"The Internet is a magnified reflection of society, and it's coming into homes unfiltered. We focus on providing education and tools to help adults and the community protect children by being better parents and educators," said Ollodart. "Drugs, alcohol, sex—it's all online and as accessible to kids as an encyclopedia, and they're very vulnerable to that. And there will always be predators looking to take advantage of that vulnerability."

While Ollodart is very conscious of the risks posed by the online community, he's equally confident of its value as a learning resource for children—as long as parents remember to stay involved. That's an approach that Ollodart takes with his own children, 10-year-old David and 16-year-old Anja.

"I have a great family life and wonderful children, and I want to keep it that way," said Ollodart. "It's important that we, as parents, be involved and not let up, because the Internet is so prevalent in children's lives. Amazingly, 25 percent of children under the age of five access the Internet from home, and daily access is nearly ubiquitous for teenagers."

But children aren't the only ones who can fall victim to the hazards of cyberspace. "Phishing" refers to an increasingly common online crime in which a scam artist creates a Web site or e-mail message that looks like it's affiliated with a legitimate business or agency. Victims are asked to provide personal information like



Peter Ollodart and his team at Microsoft's headquarters in Redmond, Washington, work to make the online environment safer and more secure.

account numbers, passwords, and Social Security numbers.

Again, Ollodart's team is on the case, working to develop and

refine anti-phishing technology to keep personal information out of the hands of identity thieves.

"Our technology is designed to work in two ways within Internet Explorer 7.0," said Ollodart, "first, by stopping phishing e-mails from ever getting into e-mail inboxes protected by our SmartScreen spam filter in Microsoft Outlook, and second, by continuously checking links to uncover whether or not they lead to known phishing Web sites through the Phishing Filter."

Ollodart describes Phishing Filter in Internet Explorer 7.0 as one of the crowning features of Microsoft's consumer protection technology. Thanks in large part to extensive user input from millions of Internet Explorer users, as well as a state-of-the-art dynamic rating system, Phishing Filter has been rated number one in effective detection of phishing URLs embedded in e-mail messages.

Part of Ollodart's goal is to make these complex tools easy for the average person to use at home. He recommends Windows Live OneCare, an all-in-one package that combines multiple security technologies, including anti-virus protection. OneCare quietly runs in the background and automatically updates itself to keep up with ever-changing threats.



At Microsoft, we want to create valuable products that people will love and actually use. For me, that makes every day I come to work important. That's what it's really all about.

For Ollodart, the biggest challenge of his job is keeping up with the fast pace of emerging security and safety threats. He realizes that this type of work requires a great deal of persistence and an outlook that focuses on the long term.

"We might have 100 ideas, but maybe two will actually work in the long run," he explained. "We have to be tenacious; concepts fail all the time. It's a lot of trial-and-error and intense research. Products don't just happen like most people think. Once we have an idea, it might take eight or nine years before that product is on the market. You have to always look toward the future."

Ollodart admitted that he wasn't always so focused on the future. After graduating from high school, on a whim he bought a one-way ticket to Frankfurt, Germany. He spoke only English at first, but slowly learned the German language on his own. After a year of debating his next career move, he took a job working as a clerk at UMUC in Heidelberg and began studying computer science soon after.

"Moving to Europe was a huge expansion for me," said Ollodart. "When I first arrived in Frankfurt, a woman from Britain felt so sorry for me because I couldn't even figure out what train to get on. But I soon became immersed in the German culture and learned the language fluently. Without UMUC, I probably would have gone back to the U.S. instead of becoming a productive member of European society."

Ollodart worked 18-hour days while earning his degree, but his determination paid off, and he credits his teachers and courses for helping prepare him for a successful career.

"There was this Pascal programming course, and I was pretty lousy in it," Ollodart admitted. "It was tough, but I learned a lot. I'm sure my professor never would have imagined I'd be doing well these days, but I guess I proved him wrong! There was also a wonderful visiting professor who came all the way from Harvard to one of my computer science courses; that day really stands out as a pinnacle in my education."

After graduation, Ollodart and his wife, Susan, moved to her native country, Switzerland. He was accepted into an elite, all-expenses-paid graduate training program with Digital Equipment Corporation (DEC) in Zurich, which was just the beginning of his nearly 20-year computer science career.

Now, as Ollodart's daughter finishes high school—she hopes to attend Brown or Stanford University in 2008—he is optimistic about the work he and his team do to keep computers secure and people safe online.

"We're going to keep creating new technologies to help people feel confident about going online and using their computers," said Ollodart. "We want to create valuable products that people will love and actually use. For me, that makes every day I come to work important. That's what it's really all about."

# HISTORY LESSONS

For John Tabori, mayor of University Park, Maryland, learning is its own reward.

#### BY CHIP CASSANO

any students come to University of Maryland University College with very specific goals—a promotion, or perhaps a job in a new career field. But for others, higher education fills a different and often more personal need.

Meet John Tabori, political economist, author, scholar, Ivy League graduate, public servant—and undergraduate history major at UMUC. Several years ago, Tabori retired from a long and varied career as a political economist and consultant. He'd been diagnosed with cancer, and he needed to attend to his health. In time, he made a full recovery, but, as he put it, "I got a little bored."

Before he retired, he'd been working as a contractor for the federal government, setting up studies on antipoverty initiatives and the economic impact of AIDS. "It can be pretty exciting stuff, and it's very demanding, and if something makes you stop—and you get past that—you sort of look around and say, 'Gee, now what do I do!'"

For Tabori, the answer was right in his own neighborhood. A long-time resident of University Park, Maryland—less than a mile from UMUC's Adelphi, Maryland, headquarters—Tabori first ran for and won a seat on the University Park Town Council, then ran for mayor. Again, he won. It was, he said, an opportunity to give back to a community that played a vital role in his family.

"My kids got an enormous amount out of living in University Park and growing up there," said Tabori. "They have deep friendships that continue to this day, and I feel that giv-

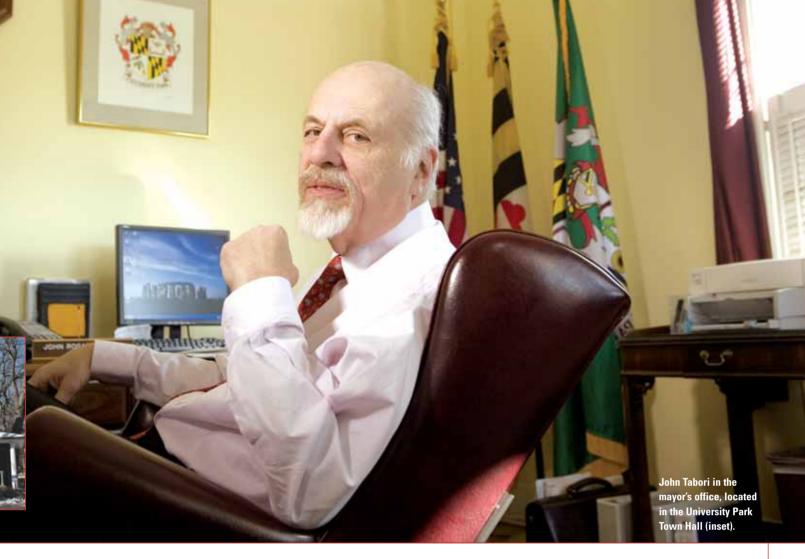
ing back to the community that nurtured my children is something that's very important."

Although he already held undergraduate and graduate degrees from Columbia University, Tabori's intellectual curiosity hadn't waned. He enrolled in the undergraduate history program at UMUC. History intrigued him, and he has always been acutely aware of the importance of a broad education.

"A strong liberal arts education is absolutely critical," Tabori said, "no matter your field. If you were an engineer going into China in the early 20th century, and you didn't understand the relationship that Chinese culture had with nature, you could just go home. They weren't going to let you do what you wanted to do. Or if you were a banker going into a Muslim culture, you would have to understand how their religious beliefs don't allow banks to charge interest."

In his own career, Tabori came to recognize that an individual's history—along with the history of the community and nation that he or she lives in—represents a powerful influence. And overlooking that influence can have grave consequences.

"If you don't understand that history, you're likely to make very stupid mistakes, very easily and quickly," said Tabori. He offered an example from his own background, when he was involved in a political campaign and had been sent ahead to do targeting and



ground survey research. Before he began, though, he sat down with the political reporter who covered the local beat and quickly learned that the area had undergone recent seismic changes. A devastating storm had driven many residents to relocate in a new community nearby. So Tabori went to the voter registration board, got the new registration list, and adjusted his targets accordingly.

"As far as I know, I was the only person who picked this up," Tabori said. "And I think it's a perfect example of why it's so important to pay attention to history."

As he delves further into his studies at UMUC, Tabori is taking the opportunity to explore questions that have intrigued him for years. A native of Sweden (his mother was a well-known stage and film actress who came to the United States to pursue a Hollywood career), Tabori has long been curious about the political and economic histories of both the United States and Sweden.

"Between 1870 and 1970, the Swedish economy was the second fastest-growing economy in the world, second only to Japan," said Tabori. "But during that period, beginning around 1930, the Swedish political system was under the control of the Social Democratic Party. And that leads me to believe that politics and economics aren't necessarily connected in the way people think they are.

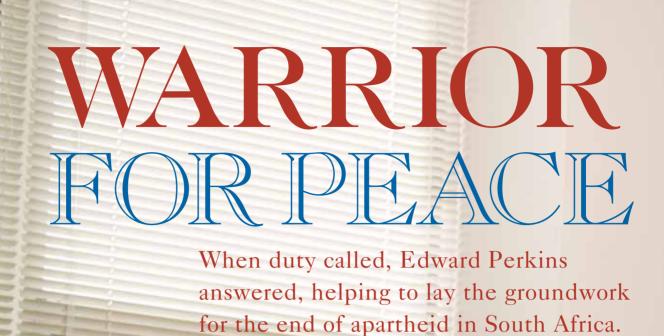
The argument has typically been that a heavily taxed society or one that's socialist in orientation is at a competitive disadvantage. But it's not clear to me that that's always true."

History, Tabori said, offers a way of examining suppositions and conclusions in light of actual events, rather than relying on theory or ideology. And studying history has the tangential benefit of introducing new areas of exploration—something that Tabori relishes.

"Thanks to my UMUC courses and my experience with several wonderful professors," said Tabori, "I have newfound interests in the history of the Middle East and Islam, the economics of slavery and its role in the economic development of the United States, and the rise of liberalism in Sweden in the early 19th century, as exemplified in the writings of Erik Gustaf Geijer, the Swedish Romantic poet and historian."

Perhaps most important of all is the connection that UMUC's courses offer Tabori to the range of backgrounds and viewpoints that his life—and his study of history—have taught him to cherish.

"As my younger peers would put it," said Tabori, "the range of ideas and experiences that mix into each course, no matter the subject, is pretty 'awesome."









Perkins reports on his posting in South Africa in an Oval Office meeting with President Ronald Reagan.



(Left to right) Perkins, then director general of the Foreign Service, with Constance Newman, director of personnel management in the Office of Personnel Management, Louis W. Sullivan, secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Gwendolyn S. King, director of the Social Security Administration, and General Colin Powell, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.



Perkins at the United Nations Security Council.

1987 1991 1992

n 1986, when President Ronald Reagan named Edward Perkins U.S. ambassador to South Africa, people sat up and took notice. At the time, the South African government was still enforcing a strict system of apartheid, holding African National Congress leaders like Nelson Mandela behind bars, and using repressive laws to keep the majority black population from voting and achieving equality with whites. Perkins—a career diplomat, soldier, and 1967 UMUC graduate—would be the first black ambassador to the troubled country.

Perkins was no stranger to intolerance. He grew up in Louisiana in the 1930s, served in the recently desegregated U.S. military beginning in the early 1950s, and aspired to a career in the overwhelmingly white Foreign Service. And while working in Taiwan, he met and fell in love with Lucy, his wife to be—a beautiful girl from a very traditional Chinese family.

"I had the temerity to ask Lucy for a date," said Perkins, "and she took her reputation in hand to go out with an American." When Perkins proposed, Lucy's father locked her in the house and told her brothers to make sure she stayed there. So Perkins sent a driver to rescue her at midnight while he organized a wedding for the next morning, Romeo-and-Juliet style.

"When her family found out she was married, they decided there was nothing they could do," Perkins said. "Now we are good friends."

Perkins was equally focused when it came to advancing his career. After first serving in the U.S. Army in Korea and Japan, he remained in Japan while studying Japanese. Always on the lookout for adventure, after returning to university studies in the United States, he and a buddy decided to join the French Foreign Legion, but found they didn't have enough money to get to France. So

Perkins joined the U.S. Marine Corps instead. He recognized the opportunity offered by UMUC's overseas operations and soon earned his undergraduate degree.

"I think the professors were some of the best I've seen," Perkins said. "Their presentations were challenging and the interest they generated among the students was genuine. One instructor I remember was probably one of the best math and statistics professors in the world. He actually made mathematics come alive."

Around the same time, Perkins recalled two Foreign Service officers who had made a lasting impression on him when they spoke to his high school class.

"The travel attracted me, and learning languages," he said. So Perkins took the Foreign Service exam. He didn't get in, but he was undeterred. The next time, he was accepted and went on to build an impressive diplomatic résumé, serving on the ground in Africa and in policy in Washington, D.C.

The president gave me permission to make policy from the embassy in Pretoria—something that never happens.

He would need every bit of that persistence and experience as he tackled the post in South Africa, where the consequences of failure were grave indeed.

"There was a very tenuous relationship between the U.S. and South Africa back then," said Perkins. "A growing number of Americans were insisting we should help dismantle apartheid. The president was convinced that if the U.S. did not lend a hand in helping to dismantle this racist government, there could be a race



President Bill Clinton greets Perkins then ambassador to Australia—as the Chief of Protocol looks on.

1994



At the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, (left to right) Perkins, the late Lieutenant General Vernon A. Walters, moderator W. Hodding Carter III, Donald Franchot McHenry, and Thomas R. Pickering.



(Left to right) Lucy Perkins with Mikhail Gorbachev, Perkins, and Gorbachev's daughter, Irina, at the University of Oklahoma during the International Programs Center's 4th Annual Foreign Policy Conference.

2001

war in South Africa. He decided he had to do something quick and dramatic to show everyone that he did not countenance a government based on race and religion and advantage for one group of people over another. The secretary of state [George Shultz] recommended a black ambassador. He said it was time to send a professional diplomat, so they went down a list of about nine people and finally settled on me."

1996

Some saw Reagan's decision to send a black ambassador to a segregated country as a political message to the South African government. But others—including the Reverend Jesse Jackson—criticized Reagan, whom they saw as racist, for doing too little too late. And many, both in the United States and South Africa, saw the appointment as little more than a symbolic step meant to quiet critics who were calling for tougher sanctions against the apartheid government.

Jackson went so far as to ask Perkins to refuse the assignment. But Perkins believed it was his duty as a Foreign Service officer to go, and, in November 1986, he took up his post in Pretoria with Lucy by his side.

"The assignment was to turn the embassy into a change agent," said Perkins. "I wanted to make sure that everything I did, from the moment I arrived, was focused on bringing about political change in South Africa without violence. That's what Reagan asked for."

It was a daunting task. From the first, South African president P. W. Botha—never known for his polished manners—made clear his dislike for Perkins. When Perkins presented his credentials after arriving in South Africa, Botha shook his finger in Perkins's face and warned him sternly, "I don't want you getting involved in our affairs."

But Perkins did get involved—first in Pretoria, then elsewhere around the country, working tirelessly for the duration of his posting. During apartheid, Pretoria was a symbol of white Afrikaaner rule and oppression. The city was hated and feared by black South Africans as a citadel of racist policies. But Perkins was determined not to bow to the rules. He instituted an embassy policy that for-

bade employees from patronizing establishments that did not accept black customers.

"Pretty soon, all the restaurants around the embassy in Pretoria—which were highly segregated—sent word that they would accept anyone," Perkins said.

Next, the American embassy organized an exhibition at the art museum in Pretoria, showing the work of both black and white artists and sending invitations to both black and white guests.

"The museum managers were astonished that there were black artists in South Africa," said Perkins. "[Today], these efforts might not seem all that dramatic, but in a place where segregation was so rigidly enforced, it was a [significant] step."

Many resented those steps, no matter how small, and Perkins—who spent a great deal of time walking the streets of Pretoria—often was exposed to their open hostility.

"I was hissed at by young Afrikaaner mothers pushing their babies in strollers," he said. "It was not an enjoyable assignment—it was stressful for all of us—but we had a job to do."

He began to court the black community assiduously, making contacts around the nation. In Soweto, the sprawling black township outside Johannesburg, Perkins met with civic leaders; in Mamelodi, the largest black township outside of Pretoria, he met with religious leaders. He even met with activists in squatter camps outside Cape Town.

And while he tried to avoid the media spotlight, Perkins didn't hesitate to make his convictions known.

"I sense a growing realization that a valid political system here must be one that correlates with the demographics of the country—not merely black participation or black cooperation, but a government that truly represents the majority of South Africans," Perkins wrote

continued on next page

#### **CLASS NOTES**

continued from page 19.

in an article published in a South African journal in December 1987. While the United States insisted that this had been its policy all along, *Time* magazine called the statement "pure dynamite" and a "breakthrough."

Every couple of months, Perkins flew back to the United States to brief Ronald Reagan on the situation in South Africa. And despite warnings to the contrary, Perkins recalled that he always felt fully supported by the administration.

"Once he made the decision [to appoint me], he never backed off," Perkins said. "The Afrikaaners tried many ways to go around me to get to him. But Reagan's response was always, 'The U.S. ambassador speaks for the American people and this administration.' Without that complete support, we couldn't have done what we did. But the president gave me permission to make policy from the embassy in Pretoria—something that never happens."

Perkins left South Africa before he had the satisfaction of seeing the apartheid government formally dismantled, but there was no question he had helped plant the seeds of change. And although violence occasionally flared as the old government was replaced, the country never spiraled into the civil war that so many feared.

Perkins, meanwhile, went on to serve as Director General of the Foreign Service (the first black officer to ascend to the top position), U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, and ambassador to Australia. Now retired, he remains as busy as ever, serving at the University of Oklahoma as senior vice provost for international programs and executive director of the International Programs Centre, where he holds the Crowe chair in geopolitics.

In 2006, the University of Oklahoma Press published Perkins's memoirs—aptly titled, *Mr. Ambassador: Warrior for Peace.* 

1950s

#### Risto Marttinen '59

Mechanicsville, Virginia, reported that he has run 113

races since the age of 59, winning numerous medals and shirts. He recently took up discus and javelin. He currently audits British history at Virginia Commonwealth University–Richmond. He remarried three years ago, to Shirley Wampler, a runner and retired nurse.

1960s

#### Kent Price '60

Eagle Mountain, Utah, called his time at UMUC's

Munich Campus a "wonderful experience." He is married with five grown children, and his career has been mainly in manufacturing management. He has lived overseas for 12 years and in most regions of the United States, and his hobbies include flying (he is an FAA and ultralight instructor), skiing, singing, and travel. He invites current and former friends to learn more by visiting his family Web site, www.kprice.com.

**1970**s

#### John M. DeBoy II '78 & '80

Columbia, Maryland, is director of laboratories administration for the Maryland State Department of Health and

Mental Hygiene. He was recently selected as a public health leadership scholar and is overseeing the design and construction of a new, 250,000-square-foot central public health laboratory in Maryland.

#### Richard C. Martin '78

Fairfax, Virginia, works for the U.S. Department of State, where he recently directed a successful initiative to include an RFID (radio frequency identification) chip in U.S. passports. He reported that his next challenge will be the development and production of a U.S. passport card—a core component of the PASS (People Access Security Service) system—for land border crossings.

#### Thomas P. Rachels '79

Killeen, Texas, retired from the U.S. Army after 31 years of service. He now works for Linzy & Thigpen, Attorneys at Law, as an enrolled agent—an expert tax practitioner authorized by the federal government to represent a taxpayer before the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

1980s

#### George Leypoldt '80

Severna Park, Maryland, retired from the Prince

George's County Police Department after 24 years of service and launched a new career in real estate.

#### Viqui Litman '81

Fort Worth, Texas, is the author of three novels—*The Ladies Farm* (Crown, 1999), *Generations of the Heart* (Kensington, 2002), and *Midnight Peaches* (Kensington, 2003).

#### **Arthur Edwin Westveer '81**

Fredericksburg, Virginia, retired from the Baltimore, Maryland, police department and accepted a position as a violent crime specialist with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). After retiring from the FBI, he took his current position as an associate professor at Virginia Commonwealth University in the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs. He earned a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University in 1985.

#### Ronald E. Mauritz '84

Cheyenne, Wyoming, is a member of the UMUC President's Club. He retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1974 as a chief master sergeant and, after a second career, retired in 1994 from Bankers Life and Casualty in Chicago.

#### Francis J. Velten Jr. 1984

New Port Richey, Florida, is president of F. J. Velten & Sons, Inc., an investment and financial planning firm. A board certified financial planner, Velten retired from the U.S. Army with the rank of captain.

#### Eric A. Sheppard '86

Carrollton, Virginia, is president of Diversity Restoration Solutions, Inc., and conducts seminars around the country on restoring African American families using genealogy and history. His Web site is www.diversityrestoration.com.

#### Dawn Moran '86 & '90

Richmond, Virginia, earned both a bachelor's and master's degree from UMUC. She reported that her oldest son was born during spring break while she was completing her bachelor's and her younger son was born three hours after class

ended (fortunately, the class was in Shady Grove, right next door to the hospital). She wrote, "It was the week before the final and I refused to leave class because the professor was covering everything that would be on the final. I am pleased to report that, not only was the delivery fine, but I received an A in my class." Moran now owns and operates www.hrbrains.com, rightsalary.com, and great-employees.net after working for more than 25 years in human resources.

#### Michael Jerome Darrell '87

Trotwood, Ohio, wrote, "It's been years since I graduated from UMUC, but it seems like yesterday. I still have fond memories. Although I went on to complete a master's degree at another institution, UMUC will always be my first love, . . . and I can say that UMUC molded me into the person I am today. I can still remember one of my administrative law professors who called me at home to give me my final exam over the phone because I was sick and could not come in to take it. . . . I am proud to be an alumnus of UMUC!"

#### Rodger A. Beckham '89

San Antonio, Texas, wrote, "My degree from UMUC made me a more qualified and skilled member of the U.S. Marine Corps and was a determining factor in me getting my current job with the Boeing Company when I transitioned from a military career to civilian life. I'm very grateful that UMUC was there at an important time in my military career."

1990s

Steven Joseph Gomez '90

Corpus Christi, Texas, wrote, "UMUC helped me

to retire from the U.S. Army as a sergeant major at 39, helped me be recruited from the service as a training manager, and helped me start my own consulting business—now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year of operation."

#### James G. Huntley III '90

Aurora, Colorado, wrote, "University of Maryland University College provided an outstanding opportunity to receive a quality education while serving on active duty. As a retired military officer, my experience and UMUC education have enabled me to rapidly advance in my career in defense contracting while continuing to support this nation."

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#### **CLASS NOTES**

#### Harry B. Green '91

Chehalis, Washington, earned his Master of Public Administration from Georgia College and State University, in Milledgeville, Georgia, and is now beginning his dissertation for the PhD in business administration from Northcentral University in Prescott, Arizona.

#### Richard R. S. Basham '94

Cherryvale, Kansas, is an adjunct instructor at Independence Community College in Independence, Kansas. He recently celebrated his 48<sup>th</sup> birthday and expects to graduate from Fort Hays State University with a master's degree in liberal studies.

#### Robert S. Nix '94

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was elected to the board of directors of the Catholic Leadership Institute, March 14, 2006, in Malvern, Pennsylvania. He is founder and president of Phoenix Strategies, LLC, a Philadelphia lobbying and consulting firm that specializes in issues of Hispanic political, economic, and educational empowerment. Prior to establishing Phoenix Strategies, Nix worked as an attorney with the law firms of Pepper Hamilton, LLP, and Smith Giacometti, LLC, building expertise in civil litigation, mediation, and negotiation in commercial and environmental health effects and bankruptcy matters. After earning his UMUC degree

in 1994—with a concentration in behavioral science—he graduated *cum laude* from Temple University School of Law in 1997.

#### Cutee Casanova Giles '95

Fredericksburg, Virginia, wrote, "Earning a bachelor's degree from UMUC allowed me to pursue a management career with the Sprint Corp. I subsequently earned an MBA from Virginia Tech and received Project Management Professional certification from the Project Management Institute. None of this would have been possible if I hadn't first earned an undergraduate degree from UMUC."

#### Gregory A. Marshall '95

Ellicott City, Maryland, recently retired from the Howard County Police Department with the rank of captain and has been appointed deputy chief of physical security for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. After completing his undergraduate degree from UMUC with a specialization in management studies, he went on to earn a master's degree in management from Johns Hopkins University in 1998. He is currently an adjunct professor for UMUC, teaching in the criminal justice curriculum.

#### Gerard J. Donahue '97

Methuen, Massachusetts, reported that, on April 15, 2006, he became the proud father—again—of a son, Daniel L. Donahue.

#### Bonnie and Christopher Szuma '99

Britton, Michigan, wrote, "Since graduating from UMUC in 1999 and retiring from the U.S. Army, we have made our home in Michigan. Christopher works as a transportation director for First Student, which provides pupil transportation and school busing in Tecumseh, Michigan. . . . For the past five years, Bonnie has worked as a branch manager for LaSalle Bank, chartered in Chicago, Illinois."

#### 2000s

#### MaryLee Roberts Newman '01

Colorado Springs,

Colorado, married again on July 1, 2006. She is an elected board member of the Colorado Chapter Health Information Management and Systems Society (CHIMSS) and expects to return to the Washington, D.C., area in June 2007 for a conference.

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#### **FACULTY KUDOS**

JOANN ALTIERO, who teaches psychology in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, has published a workbook for children, entitled, *No More Stinking Thinking:* A Workbook for Teaching Children Positive Thinking (Jessica Kingsley, 2007).

THOMAS BAILEY, director of the psychology program in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies—along with Winnie Eng, College of Staten Island, The City University of New York; Michael B. Frisch, Baylor University; and C. R. Snyder, University of Kansas, Lawrence—had an article, "Hope and Optimism as Related to Life Satisfaction," accepted for publication by the Journal of Positive Psychology, date to be announced.

BERNADINE BARR, who teaches social sciences in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, recently finished filming a documentary, *Spare Children*, based on her dissertation, that looks at the medical, psychological, and educational work done with orphans in U.S. orphanages between 1890 and 1950. She has entered the documentary in a PBS contest.

JOHN BEYERS, professor and academic director of mathematics and statistics in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, was recently named president elect of the Maryland Distance Learning Association. He also presented an audioconference, hosted by the Instructional Technology Council, entitled *Reducing* 

Math Anxiety in an Online Classroom, on January 23, 2007.

PAMELA MONACO, assistant dean of communication, arts, and humanities in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, will serve as a Helen Hayes Awards Judge for a three-year term beginning in 2007.

BETH MULHERRIN, KATHY WARNER, and JANET ZIMMER, all of whom teach in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, presented "Pathways for Assessing Scientific Literacy, Fluency in Technology, and Information Literacy," at the annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges and Universities in Miami, Florida, March 2, 2007.

WILLIAM PEIRCE, who teaches in the communication, arts, and humanities program in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, received the Faculty Senate Excellence Award in October 2006 from Prince George's Community College, where he is also a professor of English.

KATHLEEN SANDER, who teaches history in UMUC's School of Undergraduate Studies, recently completed a biography of philanthropist Mary Elizabeth Garrett, whose funding helped establish Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine—and whose stipulations ensured that women could be admitted to the school on an equal footing with men. The biography will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press.

#### Susan Roberts '01

Belcamp, Maryland, was recently promoted to the post of assistant vice president of American Home Mortgage, where she is responsible for overseeing the planning and implementation of all corporate meetings and events.

#### Joshua Wayne Taylor '01

Milton, Florida, wrote, "I graduated from Old Dominion University in May 2005 with a BS in political science. In August 2005 I was commissioned in the U.S. Navy as an ensign and sent to Pensacola, Florida, to start flight school."

#### Marshciene Hendrix '02

Rockville, Maryland, wrote, "My undergraduate studies at UMUC brought me a new appreciation of what it means to have a degree from a school with such high standards and strong student connections. When someone asks

where I went to school, I am so proud to say, 'UMUC.' If they say that they earned a degree there, too, there is an automatic bond between us—one that I haven't seen with any other school. UMUC is where I chose to earn my graduate degree as well."

#### Carolyn Walsh '02

Skillman, New Jersey, worked as a benefits consultant for a firm in Rockville, Maryland, until deciding to stay home to raise her three children. She plans to eventually return to school for a master's degree and then rejoin the workforce.

#### William K. Main '03

Severna Park, Maryland, wrote, "I attended UMUC while in Okinawa, Japan, between 1992 and 1995. I finally completed my undergraduate work and graduated in 2003 while deployed to Iraq. My 16-year education

trek while on active duty was worth the effort, even though I wasn't able to march with my fellow graduates. I may have been a bit older than some anyway. Now I am looking forward to retiring from the U.S. Army in late 2007 with 21 years of service and am excited to pursue new career relationships and networking opportunities. I am confident that my 20-plus years of progressive, broadbased experience coupled with my technical background and education are a good fit for any employer."

#### John James Zullo '05

Fort Lauderdale, Florida, recently accepted a position with Davis, Monk & Co., a full-service accounting firm in Gainesville, Florida. A Certified Public Accountant, Zullo earned degrees from the University of North Florida and Florida State University.

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